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SHORT COMMUNICATION

A relict population of *Armadillidium pulchellum* (Zencker) (Isopoda: Armadillidiidae) in the heathlands of south-east England.—*A. pulchellum* is a small pill woodlouse which is mainly confined to open, long-established, semi-natural vegetation types developed on freely-draining soils—particularly heathlands and limestone pastures. It is a speciality of north-western Europe, with the greatest concentration of known sites in Britain, where its distribution is distinctly northern and western—from Cornwall to Galloway (Harding & Sutton, 1985).

It was first discovered in the south-east at Bramshill (SU76), north Hampshire, under loose bark on felled Scots pine (Hopkin, 1987). The site is a former sandy heath which has been converted to commercial conifer plantations. Single individuals were found on two occasions (S. P. Hopkin, pers. comm.). In 1998 a small colony of the woodlouse was found by myself, associated with a bank of open sandy heathland within the extensive self-sown pine stands on Black Down (SU921303), West Sussex. The woodlice were numerous in the litter beneath the heather bushes.

The more westerly heaths of the south-east support a number of such north-western species: the bug *Globiceps juniperi* Reuter is another example known from the relict heathlands of Black Down. These heaths appear to be transitional between the typical lowland dry sandy heaths of the south-east and the damper heaths of western coasts and hills.—K. N. A. ALEXANDER, The National Trust, 33 Sheep Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1RQ.

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